

2/3 HOMEWORK GUIDE

When will my child begin receiving homework?

Some homework will begin the first week of school, some later. Below is an approximate timeline of when your child will begin receiving homework assignments this year in different subject areas.

- 1st full week of school – Word Attack, Junior Great Books (JGB)
- 1st or 2nd week of school – Math
- End of September – Reading

How will my child keep track of homework assignments?

The children will be given a homework binder with folders to organize papers and assignments. Inside the front of the homework binder is the assignment page. The children are to write their homework assignments on the assignment page the day homework is assigned. (Some assignments will be prewritten by teachers.) It is the student's responsibility to read the assignment page *every day* after school and to show the assignment page to parents.

When are homework assignments due?

Math -- due the day after it is assigned

JGB -- assigned on Monday, due on Wednesday

Word Attack (Spelling) -- assigned on Monday, due on Friday.

Reading -- If your child is in a Monday/Wednesday book group, homework assigned Monday is due Wednesday, and homework assigned Wednesday is due the following Monday.

-- If your child is in a Tuesday/Thursday book group, then homework assigned Tuesday is due Thursday, and homework assigned Thursday is due the following Tuesday.

The days listed above will vary occasionally depending on our schedule of activities. **When in doubt, check the assignment page!**

What is the best way I can help my child with his or her homework?

The best thing you can do to help your child with homework is to create an established, nightly homework routine. Our philosophy is that daily homework should be practice of what the students are learning in class. Mastery is not expected, as it is practice. Students should only need minimal assistance completing homework. Please feel free to help your child as needed, but allow him or her to do the actual work. If your child is clearly struggling with a particular assignment, please inform us with a brief note at the bottom of the homework page or assignment page.

We stress that completing homework is the *student's* responsibility. However, until students have developed the organizational skills necessary to complete homework and get it back to school in time, they will need help establishing a nightly routine for homework.

[Helpful Hints for a Harmonious Homework Routine](#)

1. Work with your child to find a consistent cue to know that it is time to begin homework each day. It could be right after walking in the door after school, when a certain TV show ends, or right after supper.
2. Help your child to establish a sequence to follow each time when completing homework. Your child should begin to follow this pattern with less and less of your help as the year goes on.

Example Sequence:

1) Child reads assignment book aloud to parent. 2) Child and parent discuss due dates and write a list of today's assignments in order of importance. 3) Child completes homework. 4) Child shows parent the completed homework. When parent has confirmed an assignment is complete, child checks "finished" box on assignment page. 5) Child puts homework in appropriate folders and places homework binder in backpack.

3. Get your child in the habit of putting homework into the homework binder, and putting the homework binder into the backpack *immediately* upon completion of homework. This hint will save you and your child (and their teachers!) much trouble over lost or forgotten homework.

Scholastic's Tips for Easing Angst <http://www.scholastic.com/schoolage/grade2/homework/independence.htm>

Whether the kitchen table is Homework Central or your child works better in the quiet of his own room, there are several things you can do to ensure that assignments are completed with maximum efficiency and minimum angst.

- **Understand your child's physical needs**, and make sure they are met before homework starts. Most kids will need a healthy snack, for example; and many will need to blow off some steam with physical exercise. Let them run — but set a time limit.
- **Set a regular homework schedule.** With myriad extracurricular activities and sports schedules, it may not always be possible for your child to do homework at the same time every day. Still, a regular routine works best, whether it's right after school or immediately after dinner. Don't wait until just before bedtime, when he may be too tired to concentrate.
- **Have your child track daily assignments in a notebook or planner.** Many schools provide a homework "agenda book" or something similar. If not, buy your own. If it's there in black and white, your child is less apt to forget an assignment.
- **Designate a homework area** and make sure your child has all the supplies she needs. Small, clear, plastic stacking boxes are perfect for holding — and keeping visible — sharpened pencils, markers, staplers, paper clips, rulers, calculators, etc.
- **Use a sticker chart if your child needs a little additional incentive.** Every day his homework is completed, put up a sticker. After a week, get him his favorite candy bar or rent his favorite movie over the weekend. After a month, take him on a special outing.
- **Come up with a system to ensure that homework is not only completed, but turned in.** Peters recommends using two clear pocket folders, one marked "homework to be done" and the other "completed homework." If the completed homework is visible in the same place every day, it's more likely to end up in the backpack the next morning.

"There's a fine line between helping and doing too much for kids, so they're not learning," says teacher Betsy Rogers. Walking that line may take some adjustment, but finding the right balance will result in less chaos and more self-sufficient kids in the long run.